

LITTLE HULTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH
AND
SANITARY REPORTS
AND
STATISTICS
FOR

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1904.

J. H. MARSH, Medical Officer.

J. T. DAVIES, Surveyor and Inspector.

Bolton :

THE DAILY CHRONICLE OFFICE, KNOWSLEY STREET,
1905.

Medical Officer's Report.

MOORSIDE, LITTLE HULTON,

FEBRUARY 26TH, 1905.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Little Hulton
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Eighth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Little Hulton Urban District for the year 1904.

| | |
|--|------|
| Area of District in Statute Acres | 1699 |
| Total Population of All Ages | 7294 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses | 1582 |
| Average Number of Persons per House..... | 4.6 |

Births registered were 200 (90 Males, 110 Females), one more than last year, but 20 less than the average for the past seven years, and equal to a rate of 27.4 per 1000 of the estimated population.

Deaths numbered 99 (53 Males, 46 Females), an increase of five on last year, and equivalent to a rate of 13.5 per 1000, the average rate for the last seven years being 15.2.

Increment of Life, viz. :—The excess of Births over Deaths, was 101 (37 Males, 64 Females).

Table IV. gives a Summary of Causes of Death and the mortality in Age Groups.

Infant Mortality.—The number of deaths of children under one year old was 34, fourteen more than last year, and account for more than one-third of the total deaths. The causes of death were "Measles" 1, "Diarrhoea" 6, "Enteric" 2, "Tuberculus Diseases" 2,

“Bronchitis and Pneumonia” 10, “Premature Births and Congenital Diseases” 10, “Cerebral and other diseases,” 3. The death-rate is equal to 4.6 per 1000 population, and 170 per 1000 births. As a large number of infant deaths are preventable and sometimes caused through ignorance, I would recommend that short simple Lectures be given or printed Pamphlets circulated on the “Rearing of Infants,” showing how much depends on the bringing up of children whether the future generation is to be healthy or otherwise, how necessary it is that a child should be properly and regularly fed, suitably clothed, how essential that it and its surroundings are kept absolutely clean, its sleeping and living room well ventilated, and how unwise it is to take infants out at night, especially into vitiated atmospheres, such as tea parties, concerts, &c. If such lectures could be arranged in the different parts of the township, I think they would be well attended and might produce good results.

Zymotic Mortality.—The seven principal Zymotic Diseases, viz.: “Small-pox,” “Measles,” “Scarlet Fever,” “Whooping Cough,” “Enteric Fever,” “Diarrhœa,” “Diphtheria and Membranous Croup” caused ten deaths, two less than in the previous year, and equivalent to a rate of 1.3 per 1000. Two of the deaths were due to “Measles,” seven to “Diarrhœa,” and one to “Diphtheria or Membranous Croup,” all being children under five years of age.

Respiratory Diseases.—The number of deaths due to the three main diseases, “Bronchitis,” “Pneumonia,” and “Pleurisy,” was 23, an increase of two on last year, and corresponds to a rate of 3.1 per 1000. Sixteen of these deaths were children under five years old, and three were persons over sixty-five years old.

Phthisis—gave rise to three deaths, being at the rate of 0.4 per 1000. Tuberculosis is well described as a “house disease,” infection taking place especially in badly ventilated rooms, workshops, &c., and as the fresh air treatment has been so successful in its results, I would advocate that wooden shelters be provided and fixed in suitable open places where affected persons could spend most of their time, protected from inclement weather. The Recreation Ground, for instance, would be an excellent and convenient situation for a Shelter, only cases notified as suffering from Tuberculosis being allowed to use it.

Infectious Diseases.—The total number was 114, of which 112 were notified by Medical Practitioners. They were as follows:—“Smallpox” 1, “Membranous Croup and Diphtheria” 13, “Erysipelas” 13, “Scarlet Fever” 68, “Enteric Fever” 14, “Puerperal Fever” 2, and “Pulmonary Tuberculosis” 3, of these 54 cases were removed to the Farnworth Joint Hospital, viz.: 1 Smallpox, 1 Diphtheria, 46 Scarlet Fever, and 6 Enteric Fever.

Smallpox.—One case occurred in October. A young woman residing in Manchester Road East, who contracted the disease whilst at her work in a mill at Walkden. She was removed to the Farnworth Hospital, together with her wearing apparel, bedding, &c., most of which were destroyed. All contacts were re-vaccinated and kept under supervision, the family were quarantined for a fortnight and visited each day, the house being thoroughly fumigated, and afterwards, as some of the blankets and clothes were practically new that were sent with this patient to the Hospital, I suggested to the Medical Superintendent that these be kept for use in the Smallpox Wards, and a fair sum allowed to her towards replacing them. I believe his Committee agreed to this proposal. As a precautionary measure against this disease, persons should be re-vaccinated at the approach of puberty, especially those whose marks of primary vaccination are small or indistinct.

Scarlet Fever accounted for more than half the cases notified, mostly due to a severe outbreak of this disease in West Ward which took place in October, affecting the scholars attending Peel Schools, and concerning which I sent you on October 22nd a special report. The outbreak, in all probability, originated through a “return Hospital case” being allowed to attend school whilst in an infective condition, the result being a number of scholars contracted a mild form of the disease, and were desquamating when notified. On several occasions I visited the schools and inspected each of the scholars, finding several with suspicious sore throats. These were sent home, kept under observation, most of them being afterwards notified as suffering from the disease. The schools were closed for three weeks, and during that time were thoroughly fumigated, the floor, furniture, walls, &c., being well washed with disinfectants.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.—Number notified was 13, as against 26 last year, the cases living in different parts of the District, and were generally of a mild type.

Enteric Fever.—There were 14 cases, six more than last year; 10 of them being residents in your Clegg Lane District, two blocks of buildings accounting for most of them. I have several times brought before your notice the insanitary conditions of these premises, and though promises have been made to remedy the defects, little or nothing has been done.

Measles and Whooping Cough, neither of which is included in your list of Notifiable Diseases, have been more or less prevalent during the year, especially so during the last quarter. Infant Schools, no doubt, are the main factors in the constant recurrent outbreaks of these diseases, and which have certainly increased since the school attendance age has been reduced from five to three years. Children under five years old are those most susceptible, and also this is the most fatal period. The law does not compel attendance before five years of age, but Government Grant is paid for it, and School Authorities naturally do their best to keep up the attendances. Dr. Sergeant, Medical Officer of Health of the County, in his excellent report for the year 1903, says, "At School young children from 3 to 5 years of age incur great risk of infection not only of Measles but of Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever, and no doubt an immense loss of life takes place from this cause far out of proportion to any educational advantage that may be attained—in fact many persons competent to judge say that children commencing school at the age of 5 outstrip those who commence at an earlier age." In my opinion not only would later attendance at school considerably reduce these epidemics and the infant mortality but would improve the mental and physical condition of the children. As a further means of preventing outbreaks it is advisable that each School be "medically" inspected at least once a month, and that children who have been suffering from illness, especially throat, nasal, and skin affections, &c., be not urged to resume their school duties until quite convalescent or certified as fit by a Medical Practitioner.

The Water Supply has been in every way satisfactory despite the exceptionally dry year.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Slaughter Houses have been regularly inspected, and though on the whole most of the premises are kept fairly clean, many are still deficient in space, ventilation, and drainage, and until regulations are adopted I fear will continue so.

General Sanitary Matters.—The Scavenging is still done by contractors, and fewer complaints than usual have been made. Both Sewage Works have kept up their high standard of effluent. The Ellenbrook Sewage Scheme has been completed. Seventeen houses have been built, the majority of them unfortunately containing only two bed-rooms. “Six-roomed cottages” are greatly needed in the village both on moral and sanitary grounds. Many nuisances have been abated and several privy-middens replaced by water-closets. I regret to say there has been little or no abatement of the Smoke Nuisance, and though formal notices have been served on the worst offenders, the improvement, if any, has only been maintained for a few days. If action were taken in a case or two it might have good results. I would again recommend the purchase of a “Sprayer” for disinfecting purposes, this method being more effective and convenient and less objectionable than sulphur fumigation.

Factories and Workshops.—These have been inspected, and in a number improvements have been made. In the “Suez” Mills fire escapes have been added, the old privy-middens demolished and water-closets substituted. Bennis’ Ironworks, opened this year, have adopted the water-carriage system in their sanitary arrangements. The closets in the Worsley Road Mill, to which I drew attention in my two last Annual Reports have not been altered. Some of the small bake-houses are still used for other purposes.

I am,

Yours obediently,

JOHN HOLT MARSH,

Medical Officer of Health.



TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and Previous Years.

| YEAR. | Population estimated to Middle of each Year. | BIRTHS. | | TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT. | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---------|-------|--|----------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| | | Number. | Rate. | Under 1 Year of Age. | | At all Ages. | |
| | | | | Number | Rate per 1000 Births registered. | Number | Rate.* |
| 1897 | 7178 | 226 | 31.4 | 34 | 150.4 | 117 | 16.29 |
| 1898 | 7256 | 222 | 30.5 | 38 | 171.1 | 115 | 15.84 |
| 1899 | 7256 | 221 | 30.45 | 29 | 131.22 | 122 | 16.81 |
| 1900 | 7256 | 204 | 28.1 | 35 | 171.5 | 124 | 17.09 |
| 1901 | 7256 | 225 | 31.06 | 27 | 120 | 105 | 14.4 |
| 1902 | 7294 | 243 | 33.3 | 25 | 102.8 | 98 | 13.4 |
| 1903 | 7294 | 199 | 27.2 | 20 | 100.5 | 94 | 12.8 |
| Averages for years 1897-1903. | | 220 | 30.2 | — | 135.3 | — | 15.23 |
| 1904 | 7294 | 200 | 27.4 | 34 | 170 | 99 | 13.5 |

*Rates in Columns 4 and 8 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.
Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 1699 statute.

Total Population at all Ages 7294 } At Census
Number of Inhabited Houses..... 1582 } of
Average Number of Persons per House... 4.6 } 1901.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the
Year 1904.

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE. | At all Ages. | CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT. | | | | | NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY. | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|--|---------------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | Under 1 | 1 to 5. | 5 to 15. | 15 to 25. | 25 to 65. | At all Ages. | Under 1 Year. | 1 to 5. | 5 to 15. | 15 to 25. | 25 to 65. |
| Smallpox | I | ... | ... | ... | ... | I | I | ... | ... | ... | ... | I |
| Cholera | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria | 13 | ... | 2 | 7 | 4 | ... | I | ... | I | ... | ... | ... |
| Membranous Croup | | 13 | I | ... | 2 | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Erysipelas | 13 | I | ... | ... | 2 | 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever | 68 | ... | 14 | 48 | 6 | ... | 46 | ... | 6 | 36 | 4 | ... |
| Typhus Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Enteric Fever | 14 | ... | ... | 4 | 2 | 8 | 6 | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 3 |
| Relapsing Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Continued Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Fever | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Plague | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Pul. Tuberculosis (Vol.) ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | I | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Totals | 114 | I | 16 | 59 | 15 | 23 | 54 | ... | 7 | 39 | 4 | 4 |

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT. | | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | All ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 and under 5. | 5 and under 15. | 15 and under 25. | 25 and under 65. | 65 and upwards. |
| Smallpox | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Measles | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria and Mem- braneous Croup ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Croup | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Fever } Typhus..... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Fever } Enteric ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Fever } Other cont'd | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Epidemic Influenza... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 2 |
| Cholera | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Plague | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diarrhoea | 7 | 6 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Enteritis | 4 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... |
| Puerperal Fever | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Erysipelas | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Septic Diseases. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... |
| Other Tubercular Diseases | 4 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Cancer, Malignant Disease | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 |
| Bronchitis | 16 | 7 | 3 | ... | ... | 3 | 3 |
| Pneumonia | 6 | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Pleurisy | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs. | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Alcoholism } | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cirrhosis of Liver } | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Venereal Diseases ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Premature Birth | 3 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diseases and Acci- dents of Parturition | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Heart Diseases | 4 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | ... |
| Accidents..... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... |
| Suicides | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Inquests, other than above | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| Congenital Debility... | 7 | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cerebral Diseases ... | 14 | 2 | 3 | 1 | ... | 4 | 4 |
| All other Causes | 12 | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 5 | 5 |
| All Causes | 99 | 34 | 12 | 3 | 3 | 31 | 16 |

Factories and Workshops Inspection.

I.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

| Premises. | Number of | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Inspections. | Written Notices. | Prosecutions. |
| FACTORIES | | | |
| (Including Factory Laundries.) | 6 | None. | None. |
| WORKSHOPS | | | |
| (Including Workshop Laundries). | 12 | — | — |
| WORKPLACES | 6 | — | — |
| HOMEWORKERS' PREMISES | None. | — | — |
| TOTAL..... | 24 | — | — |

II.—DEFECTS FOUND.

| Particulars. | Number of Defects. | |
|--|---------------------|------------|
| | Found. | Remedied. |
| <i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i> | | |
| Want of Cleanliness | One. | One. |
| Sanitary Accommodations | | |
| Insufficient | Section 22 adopted. | has been |
| unsuitable or defective | New Bye-considera- | laws under |
| not separate for sexes..... | tion. | |
| | One. | One. |

THE SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

LITTLE HULTON, DEC. 31ST., 1904.

To MESSRS. THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE LITTLE HULTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report of the works undertaken in your district during the year now past, though in some respects I could wish it showed greater progress.

There are 1582 houses in the Little Hulton district, showing an increase of 17 during the year.

There are six dwelling-houses in the course of erection, each having three bedrooms, and so far as requirements are concerned a very large number of this class of houses might be built before the supply equalled the demand.

The development of West Ward, which was expected to follow the opening of such a large works as Messrs. Bennis' has not yet come to pass. Alterations and additions have been made to many buildings, the most notable of which is the adaptability of the old mill (together with the extensive additions thereto) in Worsley Road to its new style of work, and which will find employment for a large number of people.

A beginning has been made in Private Street Works, one street being completed and the completion of the others, for which plans have already been passed, is only a matter of time. There can be hardly a doubt of the good effect which may be expected from the draining, flagging, and paving with an impervious pavement of these private streets.

Highways.

These are of three kinds, viz.: 1st, Roads that were old Turnpike roads; 2nd, roads that form secondary means of access to other districts; and 3rd, roads or streets taken over from frontage owners (after being laid out and completed) for future maintenance out of the rates. In the first you are supposed to receive sufficient grants from the County Council that will enable you to keep these roads in good condition without any assistance from the District Rate. The second are roads in regard to which you are expected to spend annually as much from the rate as you receive from the county authorities in aid. The 3rd have to be provided for entirely from rate, no external assistance being given at all. The lengths of these separate kinds of roads may be seen by a reference to my last annual report.

Maintenance of Highways.

Recognising that the District rate ought not to be burdened with an upkeep of roads it was never intended to bear, your officer has endeavoured to keep the expenditure within limits, nevertheless something is regularly yearly spent on the main roads more than the grant from the county. When only £240 is allowed for Repairs and Scavenging to a main road over three miles long, and along which some of the heaviest traffic regularly passes every day, is it any wonder that the roads get into bad condition, the amount for repairs being less than £50 per mile for grit setts and macadam surfaces. Moreover, £30 per mile is allowed for scavenging on roads that may be paved with Granite setts grouted with pitch, and if roads made in the best possible manner for wear requires this amount, what must be required to adequately scavenge an ordinary macadam roadway such as Manchester maid road, Little Hulton, the foundation of which is only cinder ballast. But this £30 per mile is known to be not sufficient, for even the County Authorities say, "We allow you £30, and what you want more you must spend from the rate." It is time a determined effort was made for a larger grant for maintenance, or the roads will be in as bad a condition as before the main road improvement was taken in hand. I called your attention briefly to this matter in my last report.

The grants for secondary roads have again been "pooled," and the amount, £158, has been spent in Hilton Lane.

Clegg's Lane was again favoured with a special grant amounting to £600, and this has been spent in taking up old pavement and repaving with new and dressed setts, and grouting with pitch ; on the off-side 8in. has been taken out and ballasted, before finishing with a macadam surface. At the boundary with Farnworth district the roadway was raised about 21 inches, and at another point the surface was lowered 9 inches for a distance of 20 yards, thus giving a more uniform surface to the roadway.

The new surface water drain laid along Manchester Road still continues to settle, and although another £70 has been expended as special grant this year it is yet far from being a good road, and further work will have to be done upon it.

The plans and sections for the flagging of Worsley Road and Clegg's Lane having met with your approval, it is a matter of extreme regret to all users of these roads, especially those in Clegg's Lane, that the County Council Committee of Highways could not see their way to allow this great improvement to proceed ; as the condition of Clegg's Lane, in winter particularly, is a source of loud complaints, and scarcely fit to travel along. It is to be hoped the work will be allowed to go on at an early date.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal.

No new sewers have been laid during the year, but careful attention has been given to the flushing of the sewers. In two instances the sewers have had to be opened up, owing to defects showing themselves. If Clegg's Lane becomes more populated it will be necessary for the Council to consider whether they shall not extend their sewers from Worsley Road to pick up the sewage from the top watershed in Clegg's Lane. It is very pleasing to note the constancy with which the effluents from your Sewage Works at Blackleach and Ellenbrook keep to the high standard of purity which satisfies the Rivers Pollution Authorities. This is no doubt owing to the careful work and painstaking management of your Sewage Works Manager, and you cannot but be aware that a careless and indiferent man at this post might bring dire results.

Two new Bacteria beds have been constructed and got into working order during the year, one at either of the works, and in accordance with plans previously submitted to the Local Government

Board. It is quite evident from the experience of the last two years that some further measures will have to be adopted to deal with the sludge which is made, particularly at the Ellenbrook works.

During the year arrangements have been made with the neighbouring Council of Worsley whereby the owners of property at Mather Fold and Ellenbrook have been enabled to connect their drainage to the Worsley sewers. For the treatment of such sewage an annual payment is to be made, and it is without doubt the best way of dealing with this part of your district's sewage, as it would have meant the putting down of a pumping plant to have dealt with it at your own Sewage Works.

Lighting.

It is very gratifying to find the time is at hand when the lighting of the district will be matter entirely in your own hands, and I am sure tend to a better discharging of the duties so unsatisfactorily done for some time past.



Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Gentlemen,

I would also place before your notice an account of the work done in the Sanitary Department, as it applies to your district.

The work is summarised under various heads and tables.

Table 1 gives a complete list of the work done, and is as follows :

TABLE I.

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Number of nuisances dealt with | ... | ... | ... | 203 |
| Number of visits paid to premises | ... | ... | ... | 1014 |
| Number of interviews with owners or agents | ... | ... | ... | 39 |
| Number of visits to infectious cases | ... | ... | ... | 245 |
| Number of notices served | ... | ... | ... | 51 |
| Number of rooms limewashed | ... | ... | ... | 173 |
| <hr/> | | | | <hr/> |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | 1725 |
| <hr/> | | | | <hr/> |

TABLE 2.

'The following is a description of nuisances in detail:—

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Water Closets—Defective | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Drains | „ | ... | ... | ... | 107 |
| Slop Pipes | „ | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Spouts | „ | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Houses | „ | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| Yards | „ | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Ashpits | „ | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| | | | | | — |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | 203 |
| | | | | | — |

TABLE 3.

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Visits made to nuisances during abatement | ... | ... | 409 |
| Visits during which nuisances were discovered | ... | ... | 203 |
| Houses that have been specially inspected | ... | ... | 217 |
| Inspections made of new buildings during erection | ... | ... | 62 |
| Inspections made of new drains | ... | ... | 79 |
| | | | — |
| Total | ... | ... | 970 |
| | | | — |

Nuisances.—The number of notices which it is necessary to serve to obtain the abatement of nuisances shows the apathy with which this work is regarded. While recognising that few owners trouble to look for nuisances on their property, it is always a source of pleasure when a letter or an interview has the desired effect.

Repairs and Alterations.—The process of converting existing privy middens into water closets is gradually making headway, though there is reason to believe that if the Council would assist in such conversions, as is done in many districts, a much larger number of owners would avail themselves of this help, and instead of spending money in reconstructing (as is the case with 19 privies during the past year), they would adopt the more sanitary method of water closets, and so assist in exterminating one of the most fruitful sources of sickness, and make these necessary premises not quite the same object of aversion which they now are.

Drains.—The fact that 107 drains have been found defective shows how necessary it is that bye-laws should be early made, so as to provide that wherever a drain is found to require relaying it should be examined and passed before being covered in, just as if it was a new drain. In one such instance a stopped drain was notified to the agent

and attended to on three separate occasions, but on your Inspector sending one of his own men to open up the drain for the fourth stoppage it was found that broken pipes had been relaid previously, instead of new pipes being obtained, and this had been done although the pipes formed the carriers from water closets belonging to six houses.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—Each Cowshed in the area has received two visits during the year, and in four instances a triple visit has been made. There are 19 Cowsheds, and considering the age some of them are it is satisfactory to find they are in no worse condition; in all cases limewashing is regularly attended to without any action on the part of your Council. The water supply to Bullough's Farm has been brought up to your requirements, and several other improvements have taken place on this farm, but as there are no bye-laws dealing with cubic space or ventilation in force in your district the art of persuasion has to play an important part in obtaining such changes.

Workshops.—These have received one inspection each during the year. In one instance the Factory Inspector sent word that a workshop would be better for limewashing. I at once saw the owner, and also the occupier and the premises, with the result—limewashing done at once.

Bakehouses.—These are kept in fair condition as to cleanliness, ventilation, and sanitary conveniences, and may be regarded as satisfactory.

Factories.—At the Suez Mill, in Worsley Road, two new fire-escapes have been fixed, and the old privy middens done away and water-closets provided for both Males and Females. The sanitary arrangements at this mill are now a credit to the owner. Some of the other mills might with advantage copy the example here set, though the factories generally are in fair condition.

Slaughter Houses.—Most of these premises are registered, having been in existence for a long time before the passing of the Act dealing with licences. Some of them, while being kept in good order, are yet far from being worthy of imitation. There are seven "registered," and one "licensed" slaughter houses in the district, each of which has been visited several times, and in no case has any circumstance arisen that would justify complaint. I am afraid the same can not be said in regard to the slaughterings which occasionally take place on unlicensed premises such as cottages in particular, and farmhouses; the use of this class of buildings is irregular, and renders

the user for this purpose liable to punishment. It is because of information which has come to me after the removal of carcasses so slaughtered that I wish to give this warning note.

Offensive Trades.—There are three places to which this description applies, viz., two tripe dressing and one gut scraper. They are now carried on with as little offence as possible.

Ashpit Emptying and Removal of House Refuse.—

This work is still done under contract, and while it may be said to be done fairly satisfactorily, it is yet far from giving those results which should be the aim of every well-governed locality. There ought to be no such a possibility of an ashpit and privy lasting for a period of three months without emptying, though even this is many times far exceeded if the receptacles happen to be large ones. It ought to be the aim of your Council to have a water closeted town, with a weekly collection of house refuse. As circumstances are at present I must admit that the next best thing is being done by making all back passages, when paved, to be paved in an impervious manner. What a pity they canot always be cleansed by flushing, after being soiled with excreta.

Infectious Diseases.—It is by no means agreeable to find how these diseases of an infectious nature are spread, and while as many as 114 cases have been notified there does not appear to be any reason why they should occur if proper means were taken to stamp them out. Every precaution is taken after notification, both as to inspection of premises, disinfection, and cleansing, also by supplying sufficient quantities of disinfectants to neutralise the effects of contamination. It has been considered advisable to disinfect every school at least once during the year, and this was done during the general holidays, but owing to so very many cases occurring amongst scholars attending Peel Schools these premises have been disinfected four times.

Summons.—Nuisances arising at a block of 10 houses in Worsley Road, and the owner persistently refusing to abate them, it was found necessary to summon him, with the result that he consented to an order being made, paying all costs, and doing the work within the time specified.

Black Smoke Nuisance.—Several observations have been made during the year, but no action taken beyond serving notices. It is intended to vigorously attend to this department during the coming year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
JAMES T. DAVIES,
Surveyor and Inspector.